

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 IO-14 PC-10 DRC-01 A-01 OPR-02 SY-04

OC-06 CCO-00 SCS-03 OCL-00 EB-11 COME-00 LAB-06

SIL-01 /172 W

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P R 010955Z MAY 74

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2644

INFO USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0305

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, ET

SUBJECT: SIT REP 17

REF: A. ASMARA 303

B. ASMARA 300

1. THE ARMED FORCES OF THE NORTH MADE STATEMENT ON RADIO ASMARA ON 30 APRIL, WHICH WAS REPRINTED IN MORNING PRESS OF 1 MAY. STATEMENT PLEDGED THE ARMED FORCES SUPPORT FOR THE CABINET AND URGED ALL STRIKERS TO RETURN TO WORK FOR THE GOOD OF THE COUNTRY. AT THE CLOSE OF THE BROADCAST THEY THANKED THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS OFFICE FOR ALLOWING THEM TO MAKE THE BROADCAST. IT APPEARS TODAY, THAT SOME, BUT NOT ALL, STRIKERS IN THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S OFFICE HAVE RETURNED TO WORK. THE MORNING PAPER ALSO CARRIES OTHER ARTICLES CONCERNING LOCAL SITUATION. IN ONE ARTICLE THE ARMED FORCES OF THE NORTH STATE THAT THEY ARE DETAINING GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL FOR THEIR OWN SAFETY AND NOT FOR LEGAL PROSECUTION. THEY POINT OUT THAT THEIR DETENTION IS ALSO MEANT TO REMOVE AN OBSTACLE FROM

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THE STRIKERS RETURNING TO WORK. ANOTHER ARTICLE DISPELS STORIES

THAT THE AIR FORCE DURING THE PAST TWO MONTHS HAS BEEN AT ODDS WITH OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE ARMED FORCES. THE ARTICLE RECOGNIZES THE ARMED FORCES OF THE NORTH AS BEING A UNIFIED GROUP AND ACCUSES GENERAL ASSEFA AYENE OF DEVISIVE TACTICS. ANOTHER ARTICLE ANNOUNCED THE RESIGNATION OF GENERAL ASSEFA AYENE AS MINISTER OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ADDED THAT HE WOULD BE ARRESTED AND TRIED BY MILITARY COURT ON CHARGES BROUGHT AGAINST HIM. DECISION MAKING WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES HAS RETURNED TO THE NORMAL CHAIN OF COMMAND. WITH THE GOV GEN AND OTHER TOP OFFICIALS UNDER HOUSE ARREST, ASMARA IS NOW UNDER AN INFORMAL MARTIAL LAW.

2. MAC MISSIONS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE MEDEVAC MISSION ARRIVED AND DEPARTED YESTERDAY ACCORDING TO SCHEDULE. THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT THEY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO FLY THEIR SCHEDULES FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE WEEK. THERE IS NO APPARENT DANGER TO AMERICAN CITIZENS WITHIN ASMARA AT THIS TIME. THE RESTRICTIONS ON LIBERTY OF KAGNEW PERSONNEL HAS BEEN LIFTED.

3. BANKS IN ASMARA ARE OPEN FOR NORMAL BUSINESS WHILE BEING GUARDED BY TROOPS. HOWEVER, THE WORKERS AT TELECOMMUNICATIONS HAVE NOT YET RETURNED TO THEIR JOBS. PERRY

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